

CLAIMS:

1. A post comprising a footing adapted to be driven into the ground, said footing including an outer sleeve and a socket member, said outer sleeve having trailing and leading ends, said leading end being adapted to be forcibly driven into the ground in response to a driving force applied to said trailing end, said socket member being fixed within said outer sleeve with said leading end of said outer sleeve extending beyond said socket member to prevent the latter from being damaged in the event that an obstacle be encountered while said footing is being driven into the ground, an elongated post segment, and a connector inserted into said elongated post segment and said socket member for joining said post segment and said footing together in an end-to-end relationship.

2. A post as defined in claim 1, wherein said socket member is pressure fitted within said outer sleeve.

3. A post as defined in claim 2, wherein said socket member is fully inserted within said outer sleeve with an upper end of said socket member leveled with said trailing end of said outer sleeve.

4. A post as defined in claim 1, wherein said outer sleeve is made of a non-galvanized material, whereas said socket member is made of a galvanized material.

5. A post as defined in claim 1, wherein said leading end of said outer sleeve is flattened to facilitate the penetration thereof into the ground.

6. A post as defined in claim 1, wherein said outer sleeve and said socket member have respectively a square cross-section and an elliptical cross-section.

7. A post as defined in claim 1, further including at least one stabilizer removably fitted over said outer sleeve to provide lateral stability to said post.

8. A post as defined in claim 7, wherein said stabilizer includes a pair of strips having slots defined therein for allowing said strips to be inserted one into the other about said outer sleeve.

9. A post as defined in claim 8, wherein each said strip includes a first elongated segment and a second elongated segment extending at right angles from one end of said first segment, said strips being assembled together to form a pair of diverging arms on opposed sides of said sleeve.

10. A footing for holding a post segment above a ground surface, comprising an outer sleeve having trailing and leading ends, said leading end being adapted to be forcibly driven into the ground in response to a driving force applied to said trailing end, and a socket member held within said outer sleeve with said leading end of said outer sleeve extending beyond said socket member to prevent the latter from being damaged in the event that an

obstacle be encountered while said footing is being driven into the ground, wherein said socket member defines a socket adapted to receive a post structural member once said footing has been installed in the ground.

11. A footing as defined in claim 10, wherein said socket member is pressure fitted within said outer sleeve.

12. A footing as defined in claim 11, wherein said socket member is fully inserted within said outer sleeve with an upper end of said socket member leveled with said trailing end of said outer sleeve.

13. A footing as defined in claim 10, wherein said outer sleeve is made of a non-galvanized material, whereas said socket member is made of a galvanized material.

14. A footing as defined in claim 10, wherein said leading end of said outer sleeve is flattened to facilitate the penetration thereof into the ground.

15. A footing as defined in claim 10, wherein said outer sleeve and said socket member have respectively a square cross-section and an elliptical cross-section.

16. A footing as defined in claim 10, further including at least one stabilizer removably fitted over said outer sleeve to provide lateral stability.

17. A footing as defined in claim 16, wherein said stabilizer includes a pair of strips having

slots defined therein for allowing said strips to be inserted one into the other about said outer sleeve.

18. A post as defined in claim 17, wherein each said strip includes a first elongated segment and a second elongated segment extending at right angles from one end of said first segment, said strips being assembled together to form a pair of diverging arms on opposed sides of said sleeve.

19. A method of anchoring a post in a ground surface, comprising the steps of providing a sleeve having trailing and leading ends, pressure fitting a socket member into said sleeve, forcibly driving said sleeve into a ground surface with said socket member therein, and connecting an above-ground post segment to said socket member.

20. A method as defined in claim 19, wherein the step of connecting an above-ground post segment comprises the step of axially inserting a connector into said socket member, and fitting the above-ground segment over said connector.